

May 29, 2012

Dear Honorable Senators:

On behalf of the Delta Conservation District we would like to go on record in support of Senate Bills: SB 1057, SB 1058, SB 1059, SB 1060, & SB 1061. The Delta Conservation District represents over 12,000 private landowners in the south-central Upper Peninsula. Our District provides natural resource and environmental services to non-industrial private landowners.

Michigan's forested land base consists of 19.3 million acres. Of that total non-industrial forest land is 11 million acres. Presently less than 16% of non-industrial private landowners are managing their forest lands state-wide. Michigan is harvesting only about 311 million cubic feet per year, when annual growth is 825 million cubic feet per year. There is also a potential to increase the statewide annual growth to 1.2 billion cubic feet per year. Presently most non-industrial private timber sales take place without professional or technical assistance, therefore no thought process is formulated as to present or future resource associations or economics. Non-industrial private forests under proper management should generate \$277,000 in gross domestic product (GDP) per 1,000 acres. Presently, Michigan is around \$48,000.

Past State responsibility has been assigned to the MDNR, who has failed in its attempts to service this large land base. Therefore we are hopeful and support the effort to assign this responsibility (non-industrial private land forest assistance) to MDA-RD with the understanding that they in turn will use Michigan's Conservation Districts as local contacts for landowners to get information and education.

Sincerely

Howard Haulotte